



Georgia  
Secretary of State  
Brad Raffensperger

- SOS Office ▾
- Business ▾
- Charities ▾
- Elections ▾
- Securities ▾
- Licensing ▾
- Search ▾

# Historic First Statewide Audit of Paper Ballots Upholds Result of Presidential Race

[Home](#) > [News & Announcements](#) > Historic First Statewide Audit of Paper Ballots Upholds Result of Presidential Race

November 19th, 2020

(Atlanta) -- Today, Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger announced the results of the Risk Limiting Audit of Georgia’s presidential contest, which upheld and reaffirmed the original outcome produced by the machine tally of votes cast. Due to the tight margin of the race and the principles of risk-limiting audits, this audit was a full manual tally of all votes cast. The audit confirmed that the original machine count accurately portrayed the winner of the election. The results of the audit can be viewed [HERE](#) , [HERE](#) , and [HERE](#) .

“Georgia’s historic first statewide audit reaffirmed that the state’s new secure paper ballot voting system accurately counted and reported results,” said Secretary Raffensperger. “This is a credit to the hard work of our county and local elections officials who moved quickly to undertake and complete such a momentous task in a short period of time.”

“Georgia’s first statewide audit successfully confirmed the winner of the chosen contest and should give voters increased confidence in the results,” said Ben Adida, Executive Director of VotingWorks. “We were proud to work with Georgia on this historic audit. The difference between the reported results and the full manual tally is well within the expected error rate of hand-counting ballots, and the audit was a success.”

By law, Georgia was required to conduct a Risk Limiting Audit of a statewide race following the November elections. Understanding the importance of clear and reliable results for such an important contest, Secretary Raffensperger selected the presidential race in Georgia for the audit. Meeting the confidence threshold required by law for the audit meant conducting a full manual tally of every ballot cast in Georgia.

The Risk Limiting Audit reaffirmed the outcome of the presidential race in Georgia as originally reported, with Joe Biden leading President Donald Trump in the state.

The audit process also led to counties catching making mistakes they made in their original count by not uploading all memory cards. Those counties uploaded the memory cards and re-certified their results, leading to increased accuracy in the results the state will certify.

The differential of the audit results from the original machine counted results is well within the expected margin of human error that occurs when hand-counting ballots. A 2012 [study](#) by Rice University and Clemson University found that “hand counting of votes in postelection audit or recount procedures can result in error rates of up to 2 percent.” In Georgia’s recount, the highest error rate in any county recount was .73%. Most counties found no change in their finally tally. The majority of the remaining counties had changes of fewer than ten ballots.

Because the margin is still less than 0.5%, the President can request a recount after certification of the results. That recount will be conducted by rescanning all paper ballots.

[Click here for the Risk Limiting Audit Report](#)

###

## More News & Announcements

Secretary Raffensperger Praises County Election Director Nancy Boren, Dismisses Attacks from Dark Money Group

Secretary of State Trains Local Officials on New Voter Registration System

Federal Judge: Abrams Group Must Repay Costs to Georgia Taxpayers

Call for Special Election for State House, District 119

Call for Special Election for State Senate, District 11

Call for Special Election for State House, District 172

VIEW ALL >>

[Office of Brad Raffensperger](#)

[News & Announcements](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Security](#)



214 State Capitol  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

[Contact Us](#)

© 2023 Georgia Secretary of State

TOP